

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN MARCH 2006

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in March was 2.57 million metric tons (Mt), which was 30% higher than in the previous month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The large increase was from the reopening of several mines that were closed temporarily in February to reduce stocks of phosphate rock. Total production for January to March was 22% lower than in the same period of 2005.

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in March was 2.37 Mt, a 7% increase over that of February. Total sold or used in January to March was 18% lower than in the same period of 2005. U.S. producer stocks were slightly higher than in February.

Imports of phosphate rock were estimated based on U.S. Census Bureau figures and data from the Moroccan producer, because Census suppressed some phosphate rock import data for Morocco. The Moroccan producer supplies more than 99% of the phosphate rock imported by the United States. In addition, Census trade data were not available for the current month. The USGS estimated that imports of phosphate rock have averaged about 157,000 metric tons per month in 2006.

Domestic apparent consumption for 2005 was 37.8 Mt, a slight decrease from that of 2004. Apparent consumption was based on sold or used data, plus imports minus exports. Apparent consumption for 2006 was estimated to be 31.4 Mt using annualized sold or used data, plus estimated imports.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks ²
2005:			
January-March	9,080	8,860	XX
March	3,160	3,240	5,930
April	3,000	3,160	5,850
May	3,480	3,050	6,270
June	3,100	2,810	6,560
July	3,230	3,210	6,580
August	3,340	3,190	6,660
September	3,250	2,940	7,040
October	2,850	2,670	7,280
November	2,490	2,730	7,000
December	2,380	2,580	6,780
January-December	36,200	35,200	XX
2006:			
January	2,520	2,670	6,620
February	1,970	2,230	6,370
March	2,570	2,370	6,500
Total	7,060	7,270	XX

XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK¹

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value ²
2005:		
January	140	5,160
February	143	6,190
March	48	1,300
April	183	8,440
May	227	11,000
June	184	8,420
July	103	4,840
August	66	1,810
September	158	5,520
October	159	6,290
November	195	7,200
December	112	4,120
January-December	1,720	70,300
Total year ³	2,630	107,000
2006: ⁴		
January	170	7,100
February	74	2,180
Total	244	9,280

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

³Includes an estimate for data suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

⁴Data for the current month were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco were suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3
COMPARATIVE U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2004	2005	2006 ^{e, 2}
Marketable production:			
Florida and North Carolina	30.3	W	W
Idaho and Utah	5.4	W	W
Total	35.7	36.2	28.6
Sold or used by producers:			
Florida and North Carolina	30.8	W	W
Idaho and Utah	5.0	W	W
Total	35.8	35.2	29.4
Yearend stocks	7.0	6.8	6.5
Exports reported by producers	--	--	--
Average value per ton	--	--	--
Imports for consumption ^e	2.5	2.6	2.0
Average value per ton	\$36.50	\$40.87	NA
Apparent consumption ^{e, 3}	38.3	37.8	31.4

^eEstimated. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. -- Zero.

¹Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

²Annualized data.

³Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports minus exports.

TABLE 4
MOROCCAN
PHOSPHATE ROCK EXPORTS¹
JANUARY - MARCH

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination	Quantity
Argentina	11
Australia	64
Austria	22
Bangladesh	29
Belgium	79
Brazil	133
Bulgaria	51
Colombia	31
France	73
Germany	18
India	280
Indonesia	258
Iran	75
Italy	26
Japan	50
Korea, Republic of	90
Lithuania	109
Mexico	201
New Zealand	89
Norway	10
Pakistan	42
Peru	42
Poland	248
Portugal	17
Romania	26
Serbia and Montenegro	95
Spain	300
Turkey	49
United States	472
Venezuela	49
Total	3,040

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to total shown.

Source: Office Cherifien des Phosphates--
Casablanca, Morocco.